

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 OC-05 CCO-00 FDRE-00 A-01

OPR-02 AID-05 IO-10 SCA-01 SCSE-00 ISO-00 /077 R

DRAFTED BY ITF:BKIRKPATRICK/SB

APPROVED BY ITF - MR. HABIB

S/S-O:L. MATTESON

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS NIACT IMMEDIATE

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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, CB

SUBJECT: PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT: EVACUATION OF PHNOM PENH

FOLLOWING IS PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF EVACUATION OF PHNOM
PENH:

BEGIN TEXT:

IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSLY DETERIORATING MILITARY
SITUATION AROUND PHNOM PENH, THE EVACUATION OF ALL U.S.
MISSION PERSONNEL IS TAKING PLACE. WE REGRET THIS
DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE OF ITS OBVIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC.

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THIS EVACUATION IS TAKING PLACE IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE

THE SAFETY OF U.S. CITIZENS IN CAMBODIA. TO THE EXTENT WE HAVE THE CAPABILITY IN THE AIRLIFT WE ARE ALSO UNDERTAKING TO EVACUATE THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS WORKING FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, U.S. PRESS SERVICES, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, ETC., AS WELL AS CAMBODIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. MISSION AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND AS MANY OTHER CAMBODIANS WHO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH US AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.

BECAUSE OF THE EFFECTIVE INTERDICTION OF PHNOM PENH

AIRPORT NOW BY KHMER COMMUNISTS' ROCKETS, ARTILLERY AND MORTARS, THIS EVACUATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY U.S. MILITARY HELICOPTERS FROM LANDING ZONES NEAR THE AMERICAN MISSION IN PHNOM PENH. THE EVACUATION OPERATION IS BEING PROTECTED AS NECESSARY BY A SECURITY FORCE OF U.S. MARINES. TACTICAL AIRCRAFT ARE IN THE VICINITY IN THE EVENT THEY ARE NEEDED. THERE IS NO INTENTION TO USE FORCE BUT IF NECESSARY IT WILL BE APPLIED ONLY TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF EVACUEES.

THE EVACUEES WILL BE TAKEN TEMPORARILY TO THAILAND BEFORE BEING MOVED ONWARD TO THEIR DESTINATION OF CHOICE.

BECAUSE OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR'S EFFORTS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL EVACUEES TO THE BAREST MINIMUM, WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT WE HAVE UP-TO-DATE FIGURES ON THE NUMBERS LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED. HOWEVER, WE ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL BE SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE INVOLVED, INCLUDING SOME 150 AMERICANS.

END TEXT KISSINGER

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